

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8152

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1856

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PROP, ET, UR

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA TO SPONSOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

1. APRIL 23 ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" ANNOUNCED THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1978 ETHIOPIA WILL HOST AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN AND ARAB PEOPLES. THE CONFERENCE, ALLEGEDLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL IN CHARACTER, IS TO BE A FORUM FOR PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO CHART OUT STRATEGIES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND REACTION. A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN ETHIOPIA FROM APRIL 28-30. A TOTAL OF SOME 40 LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, COUNTRIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

2. LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND ARE: SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZANU-ZAPU, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) OF SOUTH AFRICA, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), POLISARIO FRONT, DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP) AND THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP). THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE INVITED ARE THE SO-

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VIET FRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF: THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS ORGANIZATIONS, INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, WORLD DEMOCRATIC YOUTH FEDERATION, WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION, THE AFRO-ASIAN, LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION, AND THE

PAN AFRICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS RUMORED THAT PLO CHIEF ARAFAT WOULD BE IN ADDIS FOR PREPARATORY MEETING, BUT IT NOW SEEMS ETHIOPIANS WILL HAVE TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH MRS. ALLENDE ONLY. OSTENSIBLE ETHIOPIAN SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCE SO HEAVILY PREDOMINATED BY SOVIET SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS APPEARS BLATANT SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO ESTABLISH BEYOND DOUBT ETHIOPIA'S "RADICAL/ PROGRESSIVE" STATURE WITHIN SOVIET CAMP. UNDOUBTEDLY SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCE HAS FAIR DEGREE OF SUPPORT WITHIN ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP, BUT IT IS ALSO CHEAP WAY FOR ETHIOPIA TO "REPAY" PUBLICLY(AND PARTIALLY) FOR SOVIET MATERIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT. IT IS ALSO INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT WITHIN DIRG TO RESIST CHEAP PROPAGANDA EFFORTS LIKE THIS FOR FEAR OF BEING LABELLED AS ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE.

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